THE

SPEECH

OF

PATRICK Earl of *Marchmont*, &c. Lord High Chancellor to the *PARLIAMENT*

OF

SCOTLAND,

On *Tueſday* 21. *May* 1700.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

OUR Soveraign Lord the KING, who has done ſo great things for this Nation, as we have good reaſon ever to rejoyce of, and for which we ought to ſhow our perpetual Gratitude, by a conſtant Readineſs to do His Majeſty ſuch Services as will be acceptable to Him; has ſo plainly and kindly in His moſt gracious Letter, expreſſed his firm Reſolution to make it the chief Deſign of his Reign, to do every thing that may tend to the Advantage and Good of His Subjects, that I need ſay nothing to perſwade you to reſt aſsured of it, and to rely upon it.

The Commiſſioners Grace, whom his conſtant Fidelity to His Majeſty, Zeal for the Good of the Countrey, and His other fit Enduments, have juſtly Induced the King to imploy in the Great and Important Truſt of repreſenting His Majeſties Royal Perſon in this Seſſion of Parliament; And who is no doubt upon the mentioned Conſiderations moſt acceptable to us all: Having likeways expreſsed to you, His Majeſties good Reſolutions and Intentions; It ſeems not neceſsary for me to add to what you have heard upon that Subject.

My part, ſhall be then earneſtly to invite you to the Remembrance and Conſideration of the Great and Eminent Danger this Nation was in, as to all its moſt valuable Intereſts, when it pleaſed GOD to put it in the Heart of our KING to appear for our Reſcue and Deliverance, likeways of the great Wiſdom and Prudence, Conduct and Courage, which have been eminently ſhown; The great Labours, Travels and Pains, which have been undergone and taken, the great and many Dangers and Hazards which have been encountered by His Majeſty, in the Proſecution of His glorious Undertaking for Reſcuing and Eſtabliſhing our Religion, Liberties and Laws.

But above all, to invite you to the Remembrance and Conſideration of the wonderful Mercies and Goodneſs of GOD, who has been pleaſed to ſhow his

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his favour to this Nation, in raising up for it so great a Deliverer, and in Countenancing and Supporting Him, and giving Him so happy a Success in His Enterprizes; That these things which seemed to be next to impossible, are brought to pass to the unexpressible Joy and Comfort of all good People in the Nation.

An universal Peace did terminat that War wherein most part of the Princes and States in *Europe* were deeply concerned and engaged, one of the greatest, most Bloody and Expensive that ever *Europe* had seen, and of a long Continuance, tho' this Nation and its Interests were all at stake in that war; Yet by the wise Conduct of our King, we felt it not much: We were in Peace at Home, no Eenemy to invade our Houses, none to pluck the Morsel from the Mouths of our Children; Nay, not so much as to drive our Cattel from their Pasture, excepting that short time, when our own unnatural Countreymen, ravaged in, and harased the *North* of *Scotland* to the great prejudice indeed of these honest hearted Patriots there, who bravely showed their Zeal and concern for the Support of the happy Settlement then established.

I hope to see the Time, and that it is not far distant, when the Parliament of *Scotland* will consider the great Losses and Prejudice sustained by their fellow Subjects; These worthy Persons who then bore the Burden, and endured the Heat of the Day, and will do it in such a manner, as may convince the Sufferers how willing they would have been, and are, to partake with them in their Losses, as well as they do in their benefites and Advantages.

But at this time, it is necessary for us to consider, that tho' we are at peace with Forreign Princes and Powers; Yet the Enmity of a Multitude, Natives of this Kingdom, living in it, and injoying the Protection of the Government; Besides these who are Abroad, is not at an end. they are not reconciled, they are still Designing and Hatching Mischief, and waiting Opportunities to put in Execution.

We may justly too take notice of the Breach that is beginning among the Protestant Princes of the *North*, and of the Warlike Preparations which are made both for Land and Sea, by other Neigbouring Princes and States, which may at least lead us to bethink our selves, and to be so far upon our Guard, as to provide for maintaining that Tranquility within the Kingdom, which we now enjoy.

The King's Majesty has told you, that he thinks it necessary for that purpose, that the Forces be provided for; and I am confident that no man who observes well, and considers justly, will differ from his Majesties opinion.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I cannot but tell you, that the penetrating Wisdom of our King, has been so manifest in the Course of his Reign, as justly claims a great Deference from you, that the Care he has taken of your most important Interests, and the great Things he has performed for you, do justly claim an intire Trust, and Confidence to be lodged in Him, all the Proof of these which He expects at this time, is what may very well be expected from a Parliament, which all along has evidenced so much good Affection to Him, and Gratitude towards Him; Let us not change our way, but with honest and generous Minds, Heartily, Readily and Unanimously go in to, and joyn with the Sentiments of our Prince to His Satisfaction and Comfort, when the doing it will so much tend to our own Safety, Peace and Advantage: Now is the time, and if we lay not hold upon the Occasion, we will certainly repent it, and perhaps when it is too late, which I hope GOD in His Goodness shall prevent, by guiding your Hearts and blessing your Endeavours.

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